

1046-N1-1931      **Eugene Belogay\*** ([ebelogay@fau.edu](mailto:ebelogay@fau.edu)), Wilkes Honors College, FAU, 5353 Parkside Drive,  
Jupiter, FL 33458. *Walking or Running in the Rain: Myth Busted?* Preliminary report.

Is it better to walk or to run in the rain? This timeless question has even appeared on the popular Discovery Channel program *MythBusters*, with inconclusive results. Somewhat surprisingly, the answer is far from simple and the problem turns out to be more subtle than it may appear on the (wet) surface.

To paraphrase the famous title of John Harte's book *Consider a Spherical Cow*, we consider runners of various shapes — sticks, boxes, and even ellipsoids — and analyze their optimal rain exit strategy. Yes, the optimal strategy does depend on the shape of the runner and on the direction of the wind. The mathematical model is accessible to undergraduates and is aided by numerical computations in Excel spreadsheets. (Received September 16, 2008)